SOMEBEHDE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, A SMALL STAR CRUISER AROG GRACEFULLY INTO PLANETFALL ON A WORLD CALLED MONGO!

ABOARD THE CRUISER ARE FLASH GORDON, DR. HANG ZARKOV AND DALE ARDEN! THREE YEARS BEFORE, THEY LEFT A MONGO UNITED IN PEACE!

THEY ARE ABOUT TO RETURN—TO A NIGHTMARE!

WE SHOULD BE EXPECTED! I'VE BEEN BEAMING STRONG ELECTROMAGNETIC TRANSMISSIONS FOR MOST OF OUR JOURNEY!

SEE IF KING BARIN HAS ANY COMMUNION CHANNELS OPEN, FLASH!

RIGHT!

TEXT: JOHN WARNER
ART: CARLOS GARON
NAVIGATION TELEMETRY LOCKED IN FOR LANDING SEQUENCE! DALE, GIVE ME A READOUT CHECK!

MING! BUT YOU'RE IN EXILE!
YOU SOUND SURPRISED, GORDON! WAS THERE EVER ANY DOUBT THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE EMPEROR OF MONGO?

HOLD ON! WE'VE GOT A TRANSMISSION FROM MINGO CITY! LET ME ADJUST!

BY THE WAY, YOU WILL THANK ZARKOV FOR ANNOUNCING YOUR RETURN!
IT WOULD HAVE PAINED ME HAD I FAILED TO PROVIDE A RECEPTION BEFITTING YOUR "STATION"!

DARE, CUT ALL BUT ESSENTIAL TELEMETRY ON YOUR SIDE!... WE'RE OVERHEATING!

WE'RE HIT! THEY PENETRATED OUR OUTER SHIELDING ON FIRST SWIPE!

ZARKOV, GET READY! WE'LL USE THE ROCKETS TO STABILIZE AND ROLL RIGHT THROUGH THEIR FORMATION!
IT'S TAKING ALL WE'VE GOT!

JUST KEEP IT COMING, ZARKOV! WE'RE MORE MANEUVERABLE THAN MING'S FLEET!

NO GOOD, FLASH-- SYSTEMS ARE FAILING FAST!

IT'S GOING TO TAKE OUR LAST RESERVES JUST TO CUSHION OUR FALL!

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY A LONG SHOT! KEEP ALL POWER SHUT DOWN-- EVERYTHING! WE'LL DIVE!

BUT IF WE DON'T COMPENSATE--

BUT THE MOMENT WE'RE DOWN, MING'S GOONS WILL BE ALL OVER US!

TRUST ME, ZARKOV!

GORDON IS IN FIREFALL! SHIP IS DEAD-- NO SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING!

VERY GOOD! ORDER THE FLEET TO RETURN! TAKE ONE SCOUT AND FOLLOW GORDON DOWN!

I WANT THE CRASH SITE LEVELED AND IRRADIATED! NO SURVIVORS!
YOU WERE RIGHT, FLASH! MING WAS TAKEN IN! HE'S LEFT ONLY TWO SCOUTS TO FOLLOW US DOWN!

THAT'S FINE! DALE, GIVE US A COUNTDOWN! ZARKOV, ON ZERO KICK EVERY LAST BIT OF POWER WE'RE HOLDING INTO MY POWER SEQUENCE!

COUNTING...
5...4...3...2...1...

THAT'S IT! I DON'T THINK WE COULD POWER A FLASHLIGHT WITH WHAT'S LEFT!

YOU'VE GOT IT, FLASH-- BUT NOT MUCH! TWO MINUTES OF FUNCTION INTENSITY AT MOST!

NOW!

IT'LL DO, ZARKOV-- AND MING'S GOING TO GET IT ALL!

STRAP IN FOR CRASH!

SHREEEEEK!
THANK GOODNESS FOR PRESSURE-RELEASE SAC!

NEVER MIND! THIS SHIP IS GOING TO BLOW! RUN!

A MOMENT LATER...

DAK-KOOMB!

DALE--

I'M ALL RIGHT... I THINK! A BIT SHAKEN--

FLASH! TAKE A LOOK!

A CAVE SYSTEM?...
IF WE ONLY KNEW WHAT'S DOWN THERE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE AWAY ON EARTH, BUT IF MING HAS HARMED KING BARIN, AURA OR THEIR SON--

IT DOESN'T MATTER! THIS AREA IS GOING TO BE CRAWLING WITH SEARCH PATROLS! THESE CAVES ARE OUR ONLY HOPE!

EASY, FLASH! WE JUST DON'T KNOW! AND UNTIL WE DO, WE HAVE TO HOPE!
While in the Imperial Court of Ming the Merciless...

Gordon has escaped, O Supreme Intelligence! The two scoutships were destroyed!

What of your patrol, Warlord Moran?

They report nothing! I have failed! I am at your mercy, O great Ming!

Yes, warlord! But you will live to try again, for you are like the son I never had! And you will bring me Flash Gordon!

But mark me well—I no longer want him dead! That is too little payment!

And deep within the mysterious cave kingdom...

It doesn't look like any of the cave systems we're familiar with!

For, by Tao, I will see Flash Gordon, my servant, broken and humble at my feet!

It's unique! The walls are phosphorescent and the crystals catch and intensify the light!
IT'S A ROCK DRAGON! ITS JAWS CAN CRUSH METAL LIKE BALSA WOOD!

ZARKOV!

BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

RUMBLE!

ZARKOV--THANK GOODNESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I--I THINK SO! THAT CREATURE'S OWN ROARING MUST HAVE CAUSED THE ROCKS TO COME DOWN!

OUR BLASTERS DON'T EVEN SLOW IT! WE NEED SOMETHING TO PIERCE ITS SHELL PLATING!

I CAN'T GET CLEAR--MY ANKLE IS TWISTED!

IT'S NO GOOD--YOU CAN'T FIGHT THIS THING!

SAVE YOURSELVES!
LIZARD MEN! THEN THOSE ROCKS DIDN'T FALL BY ACCIDENT! YOU COME WITH US! GO TO 333-CITY!

LIKE BLAZES! I HAD A TASTE OF LIZARD HOSPITALITY BEFORE... I WASN'T VERY IMPRESSED!

PRISSONERE!

DALE, GET ZARKOV OUT OF HERE! I'LL FOLLOW!

WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT SURRENDER--BUT THAT DOESN'T KEEP ME FROM DOING A LITTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING...

FLASH! YOU WERE TOO DISTRACTED WITH ME TO USE YOUR BLASTER! I'M SORRY!

NOT AS SORRY AS THESE LIZARDS WILL BE WHEN I GET THE CHANCE!

...IF WE SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO USE IT!

WHILE ABOVE, ON THE SURFACE...

MING IS FURIOUS--YET UNDERNEATH IT ALL HE REJOICES!

HIS RETURN TO EMPEROR OF ALL MONGO WOULD BE HOLLOW WITHOUT THE DEFEAT OF FLASH GORDON!
ARMSMAN, I'M KEEPING THE MAIN UNITS UP HERE! TOO EASY TO BRING ROCKS DOWN OR ALERT THE MUTANTS WITH A LOT OF MEN!

I'LL JUST TAKE ZEPH COMPANY!

KEEP THIS ENTRANCE WELL MANNED AND DEPLOY THE REST OF THE MEN IN CIRCLE RECONNAISSANCE, JUST IN CASE!

ONE HOUR LATER, DEEP WITHIN A STRANGE DOMAIN OF SHADOWS AND PERPETUAL NIGHT...

YES, WE NOTICED! ONLY WHOSE? THESE MUDDLE-BRAINED LIZARDS SURE DID NOT BUILD IT!

THISSS ISSS SSS-CITY!

FLASH, I THINK WE MUST HAVE CRASHED ON MONGO'S "LOST CONTINENT"!

THIS MUST BE A REMNANT OF THE ANCIENT RACE SPOKEN OF IN THE ANCIENT SCROLL TEXTS!
IT'S SO EMPTY HERE!

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THIS TRIBE OF LIZARD MEN IS VERY SMALL!

A SMALL TRIBE, YES--BUT BLESSED BY THE SECRETS OF ANCIENT GODS!

I AM SULITH, QUEEN OF THE CAVERNS OF NIGHT, GODDESS OF THE LIGHT BEYOND THIS EVER CONSTANT DARKNESS!

ZOR, TAKE THE OLDER MAN AND THE WOMAN OUT. THE OLDER MAN MUST BE PREPARED--BUT HAVE THE WOMAN EXECUTED!

YES, QUEEN! AND THE GOLDEN HAIR--

HE WILL STAY!

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THEM? WE MEAN YOU NO HARM, WE ONLY SEEK REFUGE!

YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS!

FLASH!

AND REFUGE YOU HAVE FOUND. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS--BUT WE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS!

COME! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
THE SACRED ORB... IN HERE SLUMBER
THE CHILD OF THE GODS WAITING TO BE BORN!

ITS RADIATIONS CHANGED ME FROM ONE OF THEM-- DULL-WITTED ANDROGENS, NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE-- TO WHAT I AM!

I AM DESTINED TO BECOME MOTHER OF A NEW RACE WHICH SHALL EMERGE FROM THIS ONE!

WE SHALL RISE UP AND RULE IN THE SUN OF THE WORLD ABOVE!

AND YOU SHALL RULE WITH ME!

WHAMMPH...

NOT A CHANCE, LIZARD LADY! THOSE ARE YOUR DELUSIONS-- DON'T INVOLVE ME!

UHH! BLASTED GUARDS! THEY ARE TOO STRONG TO FIGHT WITHOUT WEAPONS!

YOU STUPID FOOL! I OFFERED YOU GODHOOD-- BUT YOU HAVE CHOSEN DEATH!

NOW TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE TAKEN DALE AND ZARKOV OR--
AS QUEEN SÍLITH TURNS, THE WALL BEHIND THE ORB OPENS UP REVEALING A LONG PASSAGE! AT THE END OF THAT PASSAGE...

I OFFERED YOU DESTINY, BUT YOU HAVE CHosen THIS -- MINDLIFE!

ZARKOV!

BE STILL! YOU CAN'T HELP HIM! THE ORB NEEDS MINDS TO NOURISH IT! IT IS MY SACRED TASK!

YOU CAN SEE THAT MY SUBJECTS ARE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN ADEQUATE!

WE DO CAPTURE AN OCCASIONAL SURFACE DWELLER, BUT IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE YOU!

TAKE HIM AWAY TO RECONSIDER! INCIDENTLY THE WOMAN YOU CAME WITH...
NO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY?

SSSILITH COMMANDS!!!

PRIESTS MUST BE ONLY FEMALE -- GODDESS DEMAND!

SSSILITH COMMANDS: ARRAKK!

OH, THANK HEAVEN.

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO THANK MING.

HE STILL WANTS DALE ARDEN FOR HIS EMPRESS!

NOW, TELL ME WHERE FLASH GORDON IS!

I WILL NOT! BUT HE'S IN TROUBLE, HE--

SIMPLY, MING IS POWER! WHEN MING WAS DEPOSED, THERE WAS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD THE POLITICS OF RUNNING A WHOLE PLANET OF TINY KINGDOMS!

OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE -- WHAT'S HAPPENING? HOW DID A MONSTER LIKE MING GET BACK INTO POWER?

THINGS JUST FELL APART AND, WHILE KINGDOMS WASTED THEIR TIME WITH JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES, MING REGROUPED AND STEPPED BACK IN! IT WAS FOR THE BEST!
BY THE WAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS—KING BARIN, QUEEN AURA AND THEIR SON!

THEY ARE ONLY IN EXILE! EVEN MING WON'T EXECUTE HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!

BUT ENOUGH! YOU SAID GORDON WAS IN TROUBLE, WHICH I ASSUME TO MEAN WITH THESE SAME LIZARD MUTANTS!

LAR, KEEP WATCH ON HER! THE REST OF US WILL PROCEED SILENTLY!

WHILE ELSEWHERE, INSIDE THE CITY...

IF SILITH WASN'T BLUFFING AND DALE IS--I WANT TO SCREAM... BUT I'VE GOT TO REMAIN CALM!

I'LL GET EVEN—BELIEVE IT—BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO GET ZARKOV OUT OF HERE!

THIS OUGHT TO HELP... IT'S THE POWER PACK TO MY BLASTER! I PALMED IT WHEN I SURRENDERED THE WEAPON!

NOW, IF I CAN JUST Activate...

...IT!

SKKRAAKK!
Good! No alarm! They only stationed one guard with the energy screen...

I don't dare destroy the orb. I don't know how it works! I'll have to try another angle!

Shortly, in Gilith's chambers...

It isn't fair! I serve faithfully as the ancients prescribed—but I serve alone!

Yet when a man truly worthy of a place in the new order appears, he chooses to die! The gods are cruel!

The gods are going to be the least of your worries if you don't do exactly as I say!

You can start by opening that back wall!

Good! Now you'd better pray Zarkov is still unharmed!

I thought that was Flash Gordon I spotted! But what is he doing?
IN THE MINDLIFE CHAMBER...

HOLD STILL! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!

STOP!!

BACK OFF! DROP YOUR SWORDS AND CLEAR BACK! ONE WRONG MOVE AND YOU'LL LOSE YOUR QUEEN!

IGNORE HIM! HE'S BLUFFING! HE'S WEAK AND WILL NOT STRIKE DOWN A HELPLESS OPPONENT!

SCORE ONE FOR YOUR INTUITION! I'M A LITTLE TOUCHY AND OLD FASHIONED ABOUT KILLING WOMEN--EVEN A MURDERESS!

FOR NOW, I'LL STAKE MY ANGER AGAINST YOUR LIZARD MEN'S BLIND OBEDIENCE!

I'M GOING TO GET ZARKOV AND GET OUT OF HERE! BUT I'LL BE BACK, SILITH--FOR PAYMENT IN FULL!

UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF WAITING!

AND I ASSURE YOU, QUEEN, I DON'T BLUFF!
LET'S MAKE THIS FAST! I WANT THE
MUTANTS ROUTED BACK! THE EARTH
MEN, FLASH GORDON AND DR. ZARKOV
ARE TO BE TAKEN PRISONERS!

FLASH GORDON!
I KNOW YOU
RECOGNIZE MY
INSIGNIA! DON'T
TRY ANYTHING,
OR I--

HEY! MY BLASTER'S JAMMED!

MINE ALSO! I--I
FEEL A STRANGE
ENERGY PULSATING
THROUGH THE ROOM!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ZARKOV--BLESS HIS MULE HEAD! HE'S
PARTIALLY CONNECTED TO THE ORB!...
HE'S USING HIS WILL TO DRAW ENERGY
OUT AND USE IT TO JAM THE WEAPONS!

IT APPEARS, FLASH
GORDON, THAT I'M
GOING TO HAVE TO
"EARN" YOU...

AFTER SPENDING LONG HOURS STUDY-
ING YOU, THAT FACT DOES NOT SURPRISE
ME!
I APPRECIATE THE RESPECT, WARLORD, BUT I CAN'T RETURN IT...

...NOT FOR SOMEONE WHO WILLINGLY SERVES MING!

GUNSES DON'T SHOOT! ATTACK?

NO! MORE IMPORTANT TO GET MAN ZARKOV!

MING IS FIRM--HE SHOWS NO MERCY!

BUT MING IS STRONG!

WHAT DO WE DO? THE LIZARDS ARE GETTING EDGY!

WE'D BETTER TRY TO GET TO ZARKOV! WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT HELMET OFF HIM!
GET ZZZAR
KOV!
MUGGET STOP!
HIM FROM HURT-
IND ORB!

BUT, UNEXPECTEDLY...

LOOK—
HE’S DEAD!

YES, YOU HORRID LIZARD
—BUT I HAD BEEN SAVING
THAT SHAFT FOR THE
WARLORD!

AS FOR THE “GUARD” HE LEFT
ME, MING SHOULD TEACH HIS
LITTLE BOYS NOT TO GET INVOLVED
WITH BIG GIRLS!

I CAN’T HELP FLASH NOW, BUT NO
ONE IS GOING TO GET NEAR ZARKOV!

AND I MEAN
NO ONE!
I'M SHOCKED! I MIGHT EXPECT A GREEN RECRUIT TO BE SO FOOLISHLY DISTRACTED, BUT FLASH GORDON--?

DALE!

MISTER, I'M REALLY SICK OF YOUR MOUTH!

WHA--?

THERE'S SOMETHING I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO-- THE LAST BLOW IS THE ONLY IMPORTANT ONE!

STOP THIS FIGHTING, FLASH GORDON! MY PEOPLE ARE DYING! THE SACRED VESSEL OF MINDLIFE MAY BE DESTROYED!

YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT-- WAIT! DO YOU FEEL IT? ENERGY--

IT HAPPENS SUDDENLY, TOO FAST TO FOLLOW, TENACLES OF LIGHT EXTEND FROM THE CENTER OF A MINIATURE SUN AS ENERGY RIPPLES THROUGH EVERYONE IN SHORT, JAGGED BURSTS!

THIS SHALL CEASE!

IT DOES!
I AM THE ANCIENT RACE OF MONGO--ALL THAT THEY WERE, PRESERVED IN ME... UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR RESURRECTION OF THE RACE!

FLASH, WHAT IS IT?

THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT, YET YOU FILL THESE HALLS WITH VIOLENCE AND CALL UPON ME... MAKING DEMANDS, TRY MY PATIENCE, DRAIN MY RESOURCES!

ZARKOV HAD TO DRAIN THE ORB'S POWER--TO PROTECT IT! IF YOU COULD JUST--

I CARE NOT FOR YOUR PETTY SKIRMISHES! YOU MAY CARRY THEM ON, BUT SHALL DO SO ELSEWHERE!

THE LIGHT GROWS, CONSUMING ALL. THE CITY SEEMS BOTH TO SHATTER, YET FADE LIKE AN ILLUSION! WARRIORS AND LIZARD MEN ALL FADE, TOO, BEAMS OF ENERGY CARRYING THEIR CONVERTED MATTER FAR AWAY INTO THE CAVES...

BEGONE!
AT EASE! Gordon has given us the slip! We found no trace of him. We'd best pull back and out!

AND YET SOMETHING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND--

WARLORD, SIR! HAIL MING!

WHILE AT A POINT SOMEWHERE INSIDE...

UHH! MY ANKLE... I MUST HAVE SLEPT ON IT WRONG!

HEY, WE MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP-- A FEW HOURS HAVE PASSED! WE CAN TRY THE SURFACE AGAIN!

FROM ABOVE, TWO EYES WATCH THE DEPARTURE. THERE IS A FAINT GLIMMER OF RECOGNITION: IT HAD BEEN A QUEEN AND A PRIESTESS ONCE, BUT IT NO LONGER REMEMBERS... OR CARES! THE LIZARD CURLS BACK TO RETURN TO SEARCHING FOR EDIBLE FUNGI...

NO PATROLS! ALL OF MING'S ROCKETS HAVE DEPARTED! WE CAN TRAVEL ON!

FOR NOW! BUT TRAVEL ON WHERE? WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE... WE ONLY KNOW THAT MING HAS RETURNED, PROBABLY TO FULL POWER!

WHICH MEANS THAT OUR WAR STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN! HEAVEN HELP MONGO IF WE FAIL!

-THE END-